

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/14

Updated form 2/2005

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Rozier/ Meads/ Rosalie M. Campbell House

other 375 North Van Buren Street

2. Location

street and number 375 North Van Buren Street not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity

county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Heirs of Rosalie M. Campbell, Mary T. and Seldon Higgins

street and number 315 North Van Buren Street telephone

city, town Rockville state MD zip code 20850

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Judicial Center liber xxx folio xxx

city, town Rockville tax map GR33 tax parcel P760 tax ID number 00143850

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				2	

7. Description

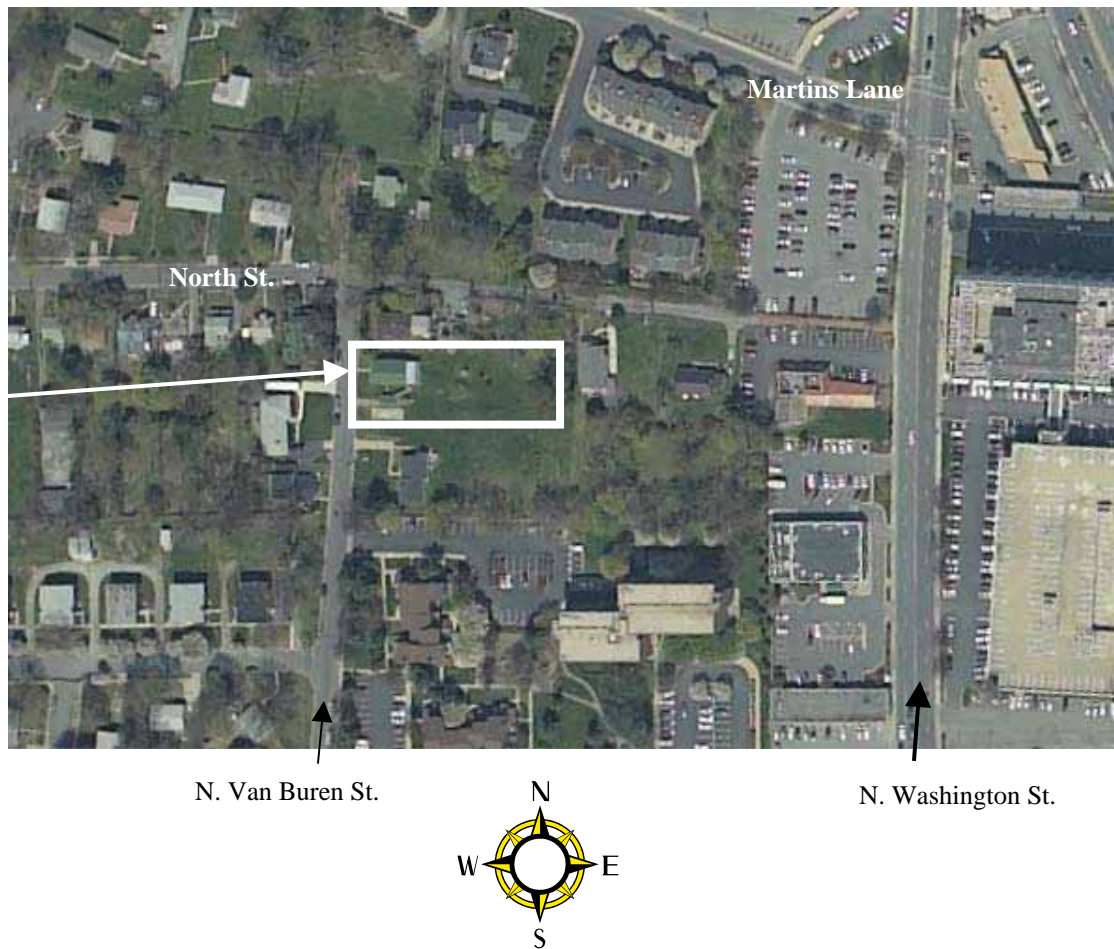
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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Subject
Property- 375
N. Van Buren



The 1929 subject house faces west on North Van Buren on a large parcel on a street of mixed single family detached houses with similar setbacks and multifamily uses. To the south is a 1970s condominium development. Neighboring houses range from early 20th century 2-1/2 story frame vernacular houses, Craftsman influenced 1-1/2 story bungalows, to mid and late 20th Century brick ramblers.

The house has a shallow setback from the lower elevation public sidewalk. Two concrete steps lead up from the street to the central walkway to the porch steps. The front of the house is symmetrically landscaped with evergreens on either side of the central porch stairs and has a brick-trimmed flowerbed that runs the width of the house. There is a mature holly tree on the northwest corner. Lilacs and other mature plantings screen the south facade.

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Left: Front (West)
façade

Right : South façade
showing covered
walkway to garage and
east (rear) one-room
addition.



This 1-1/2 story 3-bay by 3-bay 1929 rectangular front-gabled cottage has a full-width front porch, and a rear addition that includes an extra bedroom and a sun porch. The front-gabled roof has a deep overhang and five decorative knee brackets under the open front eaves; it is composition-shingled and has one collared brick interior chimney on the south roof slope. The exterior is clad with wide aluminum siding. The high foundation is rusticated concrete block. The windows are recent replacement windows, 1/1 with plain mitered surrounds. The plan is a typical bungalow layout, with the public rooms lined up along the south side of the house, and the private rooms (two bedrooms and a bath) along the north side, with a small connecting hallway. Stairs lead up from the east bedroom, to an unfinished attic that is well-lit with windows in both gable ends. The rafters are marked with dimensions and a notation of a figure, indicating that this is probably a catalogue/kit house. Stairs lead down from the kitchen to an open basement, which is lit with awning windows placed around the perimeter.

The west (front) facade includes paired attic windows flanked by decorative synthetic shutters. The first story has a string of three longer 1/1 windows flanked by decorative synthetic shutters in the south bay, and a single-light wood exterior door with a brass mail slot in the north bay. Four wooden steps with a plain iron railing access the high full-width front porch. The hipped roof is supported by four square tapered half-columns on rusticated block piers. An unusual plain stick and rail balustrade that extends past the wooden porch decking almost to the ground connects the columns. There is a lattice panel, approximately 1-1/2 feet high at the ground level.

The north facade has three single windows of varying sizes: the west bay is the longest, the east bay is slightly shorter and the center window is the smallest. There are two two-light basement windows in the foundation.

The two-bay east (rear) facade has a small window in the attic gable. The one-story shed-roofed rear addition has one window on the north facade, one window in the north bay, east side and a string of three windows in the south bay, east side. There is a string of four windows on the south facade, and an exterior door accessed by three concrete steps in the west bay.

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Outbuildings:

A one-bay frame garage south of the house faces west onto North Van Buren Street. It is sided with asbestos shingles, and has a single window in the east (rear) facade. The garage is attached to the house with a covered walkway leading to the side door in the south façade of the rear addition. A small modern lawn building, shaped like a barn, is east of the garage.



Above Left: Garage and shed from south showing covered walkway to garage.



Right: House and garage

Below Right: Rear (East) façade and North side.



Left: Example of markings on joists and rafters.



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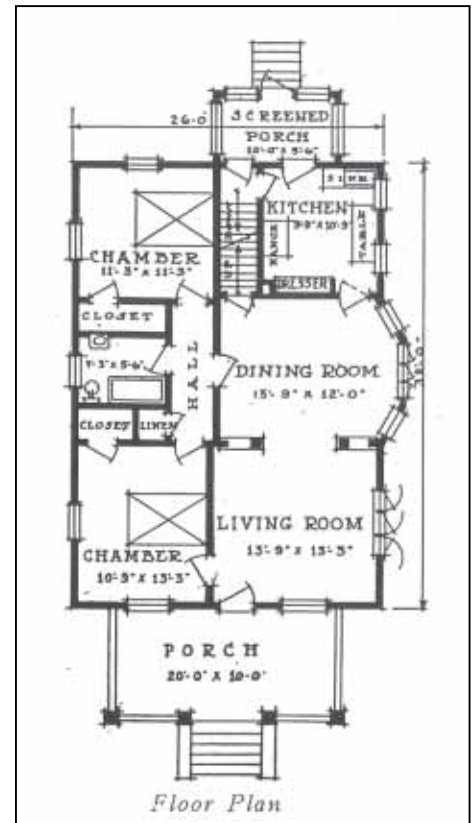
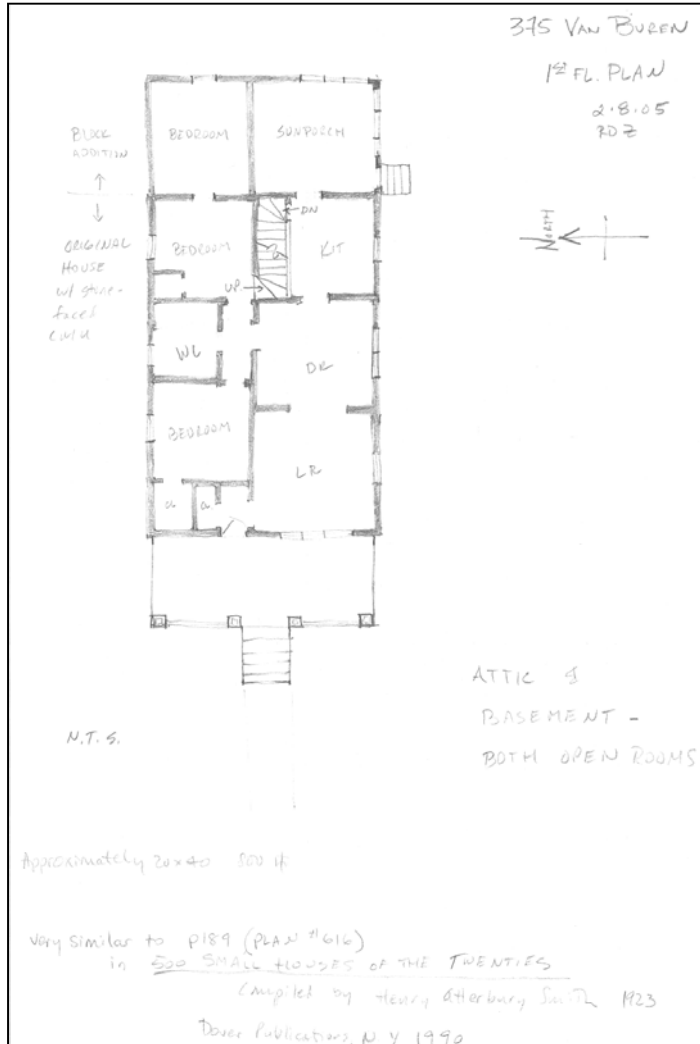
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Bungalow floor plan from 500 Small Houses of the Twenties, page 189, Frederick L. Ackerman, Architect; compiled by Henry Atterbury Smith, Dover Publications, New York

Floor Plan of 375 N. Van Buren by Robin Ziek

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance		Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Local history	

Specific dates 1929

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1929

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property at 375 North Van Buren, the home of the late Rosalie Campbell, has been in her family since 1875, when her great-grandmother Catherine "Kitty" Smith purchased the first piece of land from her former owner Margaret J. Beall. The subject dwelling was constructed by Mrs. Campbell's aunt and uncle in 1929. Mrs. Campbell achieved a high level of education at great personal effort and family sacrifice in an era when Maryland schools were segregated. She was supported in her education goals by her extended family in the kinship community of Haiti near Rockville. She taught school for 40 years, and made many contributions in a leadership role to her church, community and City.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Siblings Kitty Smith, Edward Wood, Sr., and Jane Carroll (Ross) were slaves of Margaret J. Beall, who lived in what is now known as the Beall-Dawson house at 103 West Montgomery Avenue. They attended Rockville Methodist Episcopal Church, the predecessor of Jerusalem, worshipping upstairs in the gallery reserved for blacks. Each purchased a parcel of land from Margaret Beall after emancipation. Catherine Smith received 79 square perches of land (about 3/10 acre) in 1875 for \$5.00. As with the parcels purchased by Catherine's siblings, brother Edward Wood and sister Jane Ross, Miss Beall "reserved to herself the right of exercising supervision and control over the said lot during her lifetime."¹ Kitty Smith's family may have inhabited the property earlier. Although there was no mention of buildings in the deed, the following year Catherine Smith was assessed \$250 for an "improved lot" with \$10 for livestock and \$50 for furniture.

Eleven years later, Margaret Beall deeded lots of 1 rood and 8 perches each (slightly over 1/4 acre) to Kitty Smith's two daughters, Flora Rozier and Rose Rozier Meads, who also had been slaves of Miss Beall. There was no mention of improvements, nor of supervision and control.²

¹ Montgomery County Land Records EBP14/183 (1875.)

² Montgomery County Land Records JA3/216 and JA3/47 (both 1886.)

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The first family house was at #311 North Van Buren Street built for Catherine (“Kitty”) Smith. It was made of log, later covered with siding. Flora built her house just north of this, at #313; her sister Rose built her house farther north on the family parcel, at #315, but back from the street frontage. Across Van Buren Street were woods. Nearby was a cemetery used for slaves of the Beall family.

Rose Rozier married George Wesley Meads, Sr., who owned a local delivery service, using horses and wagons to haul merchandise and people. He also worked for Poss’ livery stable and for the School Commissioners as a “scavenger.” He was an active participant in the community, serving as a trustee of the Rockville Colored School and as the first black deputy sheriff for Montgomery County. He was well known in Rockville as the chief of an informal black volunteer fire department that protected the town from 1897 until 1921.

The Meads had a large family; among the children were Russell, Leonard (a talented pianist), Jesse (Tom), George, Jr., and Fannie. After Rose Meads died in 1902, George Meads married Virgie Patterson and moved to East Middle Lane; he died in 1919. Both Meads are buried in Haiti cemetery, as is George, Jr. The family rented out the old house on North Van Buren Street, razing it in the late 1950s.

Fannie Meads married William Smith, and together they planned their house on the family property, in front of her parents’ house on North Van Buren Street. They wanted four rooms on one floor, with a basement; the house had a dining room, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bath. Although Haiti was still quite rural, they installed a septic system so there would be an inside bathroom. They employed an out-of- town builder, who completed the house in time for them to move in on June 30, 1929. Mrs. Campbell moved into 315 North Van Buren (now renumbered as #375) with her Aunt and Uncle in 1929. To the original five-room house, she added another bedroom, enlarged and enclosed the back porch (both about 1955), and installed aluminum siding.³

Rose Rozier Mead’s sister, Flora Rozier was the grandmother of Rosalie Mapson. She married Lewis G. Procton and had two daughters, Louise and Laura. Laura married Thomas Sedgwick and had one son, Louis. They did not stay in Rockville. Louise married William Mapson.

Rosalie Mapson was born at her grandmother Flora’s house in Haiti on October 18, 1907.⁴ Haiti, which was not incorporated into Rockville until 1949, had become a small kinship community and Rosalie grew up surrounded by her cousins and relatives. Her life spanned almost a century of major changes in social, educational, religious, and community life. She was an active participant and contributor in all of these fields.

Rosalie Campbell’s mother and father could read and write, but had a limited education. According to Mrs. Campbell, in an interview conducted in 2002,⁵ her mother went as far as she could, probably to sixth grade, at the Rockville Colored Elementary School. Her mother, Louise, and her father, William Mapson, were also limited to low paying domestic or laboring employment. Louise Mapson was a laundress and then worked as a domestic for a private family in Rockville. Her father was born in Florida and worked in the District of

³ Interviews with Rosalie Campbell by Eileen McGuckian 1984 and 1988.

⁴ Catherine Smith genealogical chart prepared by Eileen McGuckian 1984 and 1988.

⁵ Interview by Lisa Crawley, Montgomery County Historical Society, July 2002.

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Columbia as a porter and boarded in Washington D.C. when not in Rockville with his family.⁶ Rosalie was an only child. Her parents, uncles and aunts sacrificed to provide more education and opportunities for her than were available to them.

A high school education in the early twentieth century was not the normal expectation for all children as it is today. Many children finished only the 6th or 8th grade. This was especially true with African Americans. Mrs. Campbell completed high school and teacher's college, and earned a Bachelor's degree and Masters of Education.

Her education began at Rockville Colored Elementary School on North Washington Street near Beall Avenue from 1915 to 1921. The school had been destroyed in a fire so she attended school in partitioned rooms in the Galilean Fisherman's Hall across North Washington Street. Then her parents transferred her to Phillip Elementary School in Georgetown to finish primary school. She could take the trolley from Rockville to Georgetown, boarding with a lady during the week that was known to the family. After completing elementary school, she graduated from Dunbar High School in 1926. Washington D.C. had two high schools for African Americans. Dunbar was an academic school focused on preparation for higher education rather than a manual training school, so she chose that, wanting to further her education if possible. After finishing at Dunbar, Mrs. Campbell went to Miner Normal College in Washington, D.C. Miner issued a teaching certificate upon two or three years of education. At that time, Mrs. Campbell stated, an educated African American was either a preacher or a teacher. During her time at Miner, she lived with her Uncle William Smith and Aunt Fannie "Tet" Smith in Washington, D.C. After her graduation from Miner in 1928, her Aunt and Uncle moved back to Rockville and built the house at 375 North Van Buren.

Mrs. Campbell taught in a one room schoolhouse in Wicomico County for several years. She returned to Montgomery County to teach in 1932, first teaching grades one, two and three at the segregated one-room school in Stewarttown where room was so tight that some classes were held in the hall. She joined Jerusalem Methodist Church in 1932 during Rev. C.A. Johnson's administration.

Eight years were spent teaching at a two room school in Spencerville before she moved up to the three-room Quince Orchard School on Darnestown Road. During this period, her superintendent urged her and others to finish their college degree and get a master's degree. Also during her early teaching career, a Rockville school teacher, William Gibbs, brought suit against the County for paying black school teachers with equal credentials half of the pay of white teachers, and won.

Mrs. Campbell graduated from Morgan State with a bachelor's degree in 1951 and pursued a graduate degree at New York University, attending classes on Saturdays in the weekend program for two years with Lillian Brown and Grace Billingsley. At that time, the University of Maryland would not admit African Americans. The teachers worked all week and then left Rockville at 2 a.m. to get to New York City and have breakfast before

⁶ 1920 U.S. Census for Washington D.C. in January and for "Hayti, E(lection) D (istrict) 4 Rockville, Part of" in March, 1920. William Mapson was listed in both. In the Rockville census he is 32 years old and the head of a household. His 37 year old wife Louise and 12 year old Daughter Rosalie are also listed in the household. His family place of birth is "Maryland." In the D.C. Census, he is 37 years old and born in Florida.

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classes. They attended classes and then drove back to Rockville. That gave these teachers one day of the week to keep their daily lives on track and participate in the community.

She taught at the new Rock Terrace Elementary School before schools in Montgomery County were integrated in the 1960s. Rock Terrace consolidated four smaller elementary schools for black students. She was moved to West Rockville Elementary to integrate the teaching staff after desegregation. She obtained special training at Syracuse University as well as Catholic and Georgetown Universities and the University of Maryland. She retired from Travilah Elementary School in 1968 after a 40-year career in education. She was known as an expert teacher who maintained strict classroom etiquette. During her forty years, she provided basic education and manners to over a thousand children.

On April 9, 1933, she married Charles F. Campbell. The Campbells did not have children, but Mrs. Campbell informally adopted one of her students, Mary Thomas, and raised her as a daughter.

In addition to her teaching career, Mrs. Campbell dedicated quality time to her church, Jerusalem - Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and to the greater United Methodist Church in many capacities. She was a certified lay speaker and she wrote inspirational prayers and devotional materials that were published by the United Methodist Church for use nationally: "Prayer in the Black Tradition," and "Stir Into the Flame."⁷

The Rev. Jane Wood, current pastor of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and a descendent of the original sibling slaves of Miss Beall in Haiti, remembers that her influence and teaching was presented in a number of ways.

"Mrs. Campbell was my third grade teacher. She instilled in us a desire to be the very best we could be. Excellence, education and faith were of equal importance to her. She was pleased that one of her former students was now her pastor. She also taught Sunday School at Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant. In 1941 she organized and counseled our first Methodist Youth Fellowship. She was the only woman in the church to become a member of the United Methodist Men's group. She was very thorough in her reports and always on time for every meeting."

She served as a vice president and treasurer of the West End Citizens Association. She was a full participant and contributor to many other local social and cultural organizations. Mrs. Campbell was a charter member of the Merry Makers Club of Rockville. She belonged to the Travelers and the Gadabouts, and was appointed by Mayor Steven Van Grack to the Rockville Seniors, Inc. where she served as president. She was also a member of the Young In Heart Club, The Willing 3C's Senior Club, and Peerless Rockville. She provided a number of oral histories and talks on local black history and integration of the City to church and Senior Clubs, the Montgomery County Historical Society, Peerless Rockville, and other groups.

⁷ Copyright United Methodist Church, Upper Room, Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tennessee.

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Family and friends gathered in Rockville to honor her on her 80th birthday, October 17, 1987. At this time she received an appreciation from Rockville Mayor Steven Van Grack for her service to the community and City.⁸

Mrs. Campbell died at age 96 on September 6, 2004. She was buried in the Galilean Fisherman Cemetery at Lincoln Park. She left a daughter, Mary T. Higgins and son-in-law Seldon Higgins, as well as three grandchildren and one great grandson. At her funeral were many former students and friends who maintained respectful contact with her until the end. She was the last of a generation, and we shall never see the likes of her and her generation again.

⁸ The Rockville Gazette, October 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation records, Montgomery County Land records, Oral Histories and interviews of Rosalie Campbell by Lisa Crawely, Eileen McGuckian and Judy Christensen. The Rockville Gazette. MHT Form M:26/16/14 by Eileen McGuckian and Judy Christensen dated May 1988.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 8,913 square feet
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot in Haiti GR33, P. 760.

11. Form Prepared by

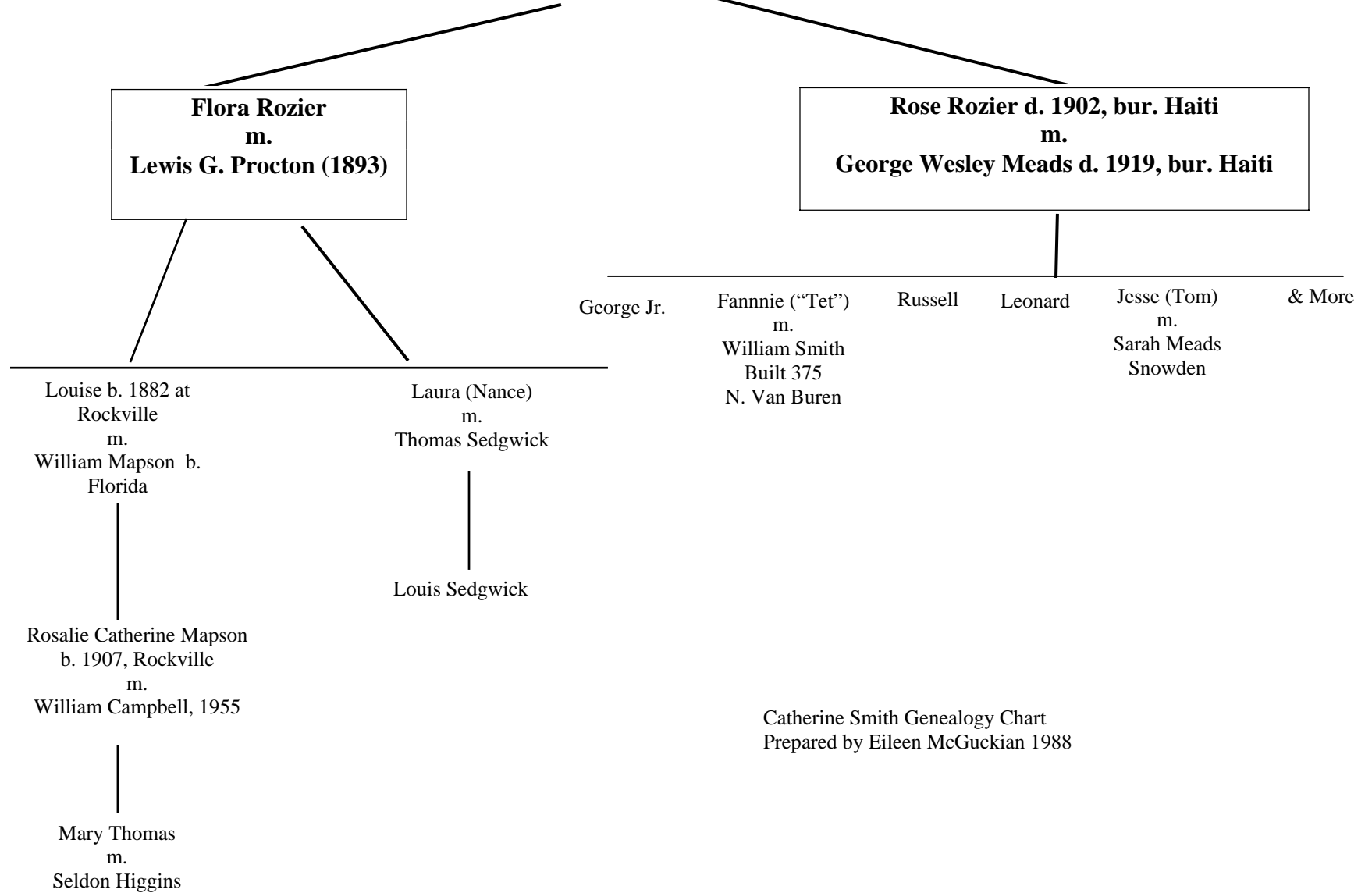
name/title	Eileen McGuckian; Judy Christensen, Robin Ziek		
organization	City of Rockville, MD	date	Updated February 2005
street & number	111 Maryland Avenue	telephone	240-314-8232
city or town	Rockville	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Catherine (Kitty) Smith



Catherine Smith Genealogy Chart
Prepared by Eileen McGuckian 1988